DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 392 974 CE 071 149

TITLE	Job Corps. Comparison of Federal Program with State Youth Training Initiatives. Report to Congressional Requesters.
INSTITUTION	General Accounting Office, Washington, DC. Health, Education, and Human Services Div.
REPORT NO	GAO/HEHS-96-92
PUB DATE	Mar 96
NOTE	24p.
AVAILABLE FROM	U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015 (first copy free; additional copies $2 each; 100 or more: 25% discount).
PUB TYPE	Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Disadvantaged Youth; *Federal Programs; *Job Training; Late Adolescents; *Program Content; *State Programs; Youth Employment; *Youth Programs
IDENTIFIERS	*Job Corps

ABSTRACT

The General Accounting Office compared state youth training programs with the Job Corps using the four program features that, taken together, characterize the Job Corps program: (1) serving a severely disadvantaged population, (2) providing basic education instruction, (3) focusing on vocational training services, and (4) providing these services in a residential setting. Data were collected through surveys of state officials and national organizations associated with youth employment and training programs. Two programs that most closely resembled the Job Corps program were visited. The study found that most state and local programs for youth differ from the Job Corps. Most states had programs serving disadvantaged youth that provided basic education, and some state programs also offered vocational training, but it was limited to preemployment preparation or introduction to the working world and did not include training in a specific occupation. In addition, residential programs operated by the states generally targeted a specific segment of the disadvantaged youth population, such as youths who have been involved in the court system, whereas the Job Corps targets youths with multiple barriers to employment, such as school dropouts, recipients of public assistance, and youths with limited English proficiency. Of the state and local programs, youth corps programs (programs that give young people work experience and training through community service and conservation projects) had characteristics most similar to Job Corps. Two youth corps programs--California Conservation Corps and Seaborne Conservation Corps in Galveston, Texas--contained all four features of the Job Corps, but they differed in the way they operated their programs. For example, the California program does not specifically target the disadvantaged, and Seaborne's vocational training is geared toward only one industry. (The report contains a list of state and local year-round youth corps programs and comments from the Department of Labor.) (KC)

United States General Accounting Office

GAO

Report to Congressional Requesters

March 1996

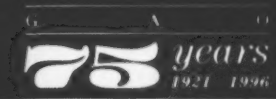
JOB CORPS

Comparison of Federal Program With State Youth Training Initiatives

ED 392 974

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

GEO 71149



GAO/HEHS-96-92

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GAO

United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Health, Education, and
Human Services Division

B-271070

March 28, 1996

The Honorable William F. Goodling
Chairman, Committee on Economic
and Educational Opportunities
House of Representatives

The Honorable Christopher Shays
Chairman, Human Resources and
Intergovernmental Relations
Subcommittee
Committee on Government Reform
and Oversight
House of Representatives

The nation's workforce development system consists of about 163 programs or funding streams that are funded at about $20 billion and administered by 15 federal departments and independent agencies.[1] With the current focus on achieving a balanced budget, the Congress is looking for ways to increase federal program efficiency while reducing costs. Bills currently in conference propose consolidating many employment and training programs into block grants to the states and reducing their funding by 15 to 20 percent. These proposals retain Job Corps—a comprehensive, residential employment and training program for severely disadvantaged youth—as a national program. However, provisions in the Senate bill seek to better integrate Job Corps with state and local workforce development initiatives. As the Congress continues to deliberate the future structure of the federally funded workforce development system and Job Corps' place in this system, you requested that we study several aspects of the Job Corps program.

This letter responds to your interest in whether states have established training programs for youth that are similar to Job Corps. More specifically, we compared youth training programs established by the states with Job Corps using the four program features that, taken together, characterize the Job Corps program. These features are (1) serving a severely disadvantaged population, (2) providing basic education instruction, (3) focusing on vocational training services, and (4) providing these services in a residential setting. While the overall goal of the Job Corps program is placement in a job or additional education and training,

[1]Multiple Employment Training Programs: Major Overhaul Needed to Reduce Costs, Streamline the Bureaucracy, and Improve Results (GAO/T-HEHS-95-53, Jan. 10, 1995).

as agreed with your staffs, we focused our work on identifying state programs that had these four features, not on program outcomes. We used these four features for comparison purposes only. We did not intend to imply that all programs should contain these features, that the existence of such features would necessarily ensure program effectiveness, or that programs should be modeled after Job Corps.[2]

To identify state and locally established youth training programs similar to Job Corps, we systematically surveyed state officials familiar with human resource programs in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as national organizations associated with youth employment and training programs.[3] We asked them about any programs within their state that were similar to Job Corps—that is, that contained Job Corps' four descriptive characteristics. We also reviewed applicable reports and publications related to youth programs that we identified through an extensive literature search. In addition, we sought information on the possible existence of other similar programs through the Internet computer information system.

From the state and local youth training programs we identified, we noted two that most closely resembled the Job Corps program. We visited both programs and obtained detailed information on their organizational structures and program operations.

We did our work from October 1995 through January 1996 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Results in Brief

Considering the four characteristics that together describe the Job Corps program, we found that most state and local programs for youth differ from Job Corps. Most states had programs serving disadvantaged youth that provided basic education, and some state programs also offered vocational training. However, vocational training was limited to preemployment preparation or introduction to the working world and did not include training in a specific occupation. In addition, residential programs operated by the states generally targeted a specific segment of

[2]See Job Corps: High Costs and Mixed Results Raise Questions About Program's Effectiveness (GAO/HEHS-95-180, June 30, 1995) for an assessment of the program's effectiveness.

[3]We looked for youth training programs that were established by the states or local entities, regardless of the source of operating funds. These programs may receive funds from one or more sources, including federal, state, and local governments, as well as private contributions. We excluded those programs that, although administered and operated by state or local governments, were federally established, such as titles IIB and IIC youth training programs under the Job Training Partnership Act.

the disadvantaged youth population, such as youths who have been involved in the court system, whereas Job Corps targets youths with multiple barriers to employment, such as school dropouts, recipients of public assistance, and youths with limited English proficiency.

From among state and local youth programs, we found that youth corps programs (programs that give young people work experience and training through community service and conservation projects) had characteristics most similar to Job Corps. Both Job Corps and youth corps programs operate in many states, typically serving disadvantaged youth and providing instruction to enhance basic education skills. On the other hand, few youth corps programs are residential or focus on vocational training in specific occupations.

Two youth corps programs—California Conservation Corps (at statewide locations in California) and Seaborne Conservation Corps in Galveston, Texas—contained all four features of Job Corps, but they differed from Job Corps in the way they operated their programs. For example, unlike Job Corps, which targets severely disadvantaged youth, the California Conservation Corps does not specifically focus on the disadvantaged; however, the majority of its participants are high school dropouts. The program is, in part, residential and provides basic education but only limited vocational training. This training consists primarily of work experience on environmental and public conservation projects, and training-related employment is not the primary focus of the program. The Seaborne Conservation Corps is a residential program targeted to high school dropouts. The 7-month training program provides basic education, life skills instruction, and vocational training in a military-style environment. However, vocational training is geared only toward the maritime industry.

Background

Job Corps was established in 1964 as an employment and training program aimed at providing severely disadvantaged youth with a comprehensive array of services, primarily in a residential setting. Administered by the Department of Labor, Job Corps services are provided at 110 centers located throughout the United States. All but four of the states have at least one center operating within their boundaries.[4] The program receives annual funding of approximately $1 billion to serve about 100,000 youths.

[4]Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Wyoming do not have Job Corps centers.

The program enrolls youths aged 16 to 24 who are severely disadvantaged, in need of additional education or training, and living in a disruptive environment. Our previous report contained an analysis of characteristics of those terminating from Job Corps in program year[5] 1993, which showed that over two-thirds of the program's participants had multiple barriers to employment.[6,7] Enrollment is voluntary, and training programs are open entry and self-paced, allowing participants to enroll throughout the year and to progress at their own pace. On average, participants spend about 8 months in the program but can stay up to 2 years.

Each of the centers provides participants with a range of services including basic education, vocational skills training, social skills instruction, counseling, health care (including dental), room and board, and recreational activities. Skills training is offered in a variety of vocational areas, such as business occupations, automotive repair, construction trades, and health occupations. These programs are taught by center staff, private contractors, or instructors provided under contracts with national labor and business organizations.

One feature that makes Job Corps different from other youth training programs is its residential component. About 90 percent of the approximately 63,000 youths enrolled each year live at the centers, allowing services to be provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The premise for boarding participants is that most come from a disruptive environment and therefore can benefit from receiving education and training in a different setting where a variety of support services is available around the clock. Job Corps typically employs residential staff to oversee dormitory living and security staff for the safety and well-being of its participants. Furthermore, Job Corps participants must have permission to leave the Job Corps center grounds, and participants "earn" home leave, which must be approved before being taken and can be denied for a number of reasons such as failure to follow a center's rules of conduct.

The Job Corps program recently implemented a "Zero Tolerance" policy for violence and drugs in order to ensure a safe and drug-free

[5]A program year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year. Program years are designated by the year in which they start; thus, program year 1993 began July 1, 1993, and ended June 30, 1994.

[6]GAO/HEHS-95-180, June 30, 1995.

[7]The barriers included dropping out of school, being deficient in basic skills (reading or math skills below the eighth-grade level), receiving public assistance, and having limited English proficiency.

environment. This policy includes a "one-strike-and-you're-out" provision for the most serious violent or criminal offenses as well as for drug violations.

Job Corps enrollees receive periodic allowance and incentive payments. For example, initially a participant receives a base allowance of about $50 per month, which increases to about $80 per month after 6 months. In addition, participants are eligible to receive incentive bonuses of between $25 and $80 each if they earn an exceptional rating on their performance evaluations, held every 60 days. Participants can also earn bonuses of $250 each for graduating from high school or receiving a general equivalency diploma, completing vocational training, and getting a job. Participants receive an additional $100 if the job is related to the vocational training they received while in Job Corps. Participants obtain jobs through a variety of mechanisms, including finding the job on their own, being referred by their vocational instructor, and being placed by the Job Corps center or a contracted placement agency.

Participation in Job Corps can lead to placement in a job or enrollment in further training or education. It can also lead to educational achievements such as attaining a high school diploma and reading or math skill gains. However, the primary outcome for Job Corps participants is employment; about 60 percent of those leaving the program get jobs. Recently, the Department of Labor placed emphasis on participants receiving a job related to the occupational training they received by including training-related employment among its program performance measures.

Characteristics of State and Local Youth Training Programs Differ From Those of Job Corps

State and local entities have established a wide array of youth training programs using funds from various sources, including federal, state, and local governments and private contributors. While many of these programs share some individual characteristics with Job Corps, we found that the extent to which the four characteristics were present in state or locally established youth training programs was limited. However, we did identify two programs that had all four characteristics.

Most state officials we surveyed told us their states had programs that provided disadvantaged youth with basic education. For example, the Learning Center, operated by a Boston community-based antipoverty organization, offers a specialized year-round alternative education program for youth that includes alternative high school, general

equivalency diploma, and school-to-work programs. The program is not residential nor does it provide vocational training.

Furthermore, some programs identified by state officials as offering basic education also provided vocational training. The vocational training, however, consisted of preemployment preparation or introduction to the working world but not training in a specific occupation. For example, the Youth Opportunities Unlimited program in Arkansas is a high school intervention program, administered by the state's Department of Higher Education, designed to encourage economically disadvantaged youth to remain in school. In addition to basic education, program participants receive classroom training in preemployment and work maturity skills combined with the practical application of skills provided through on-campus employment. No job-specific skills training, however, is provided.

Residential programs operated by the states generally targeted specific populations—such as youths who have been involved with the court system, disabled individuals, or substance abusers. For example, one state-funded program, the Gulf Coast Trades Center in Texas, integrates in a residential setting vocational training, basic education, and support services for delinquent youth. The program is designed to prepare young people for employment in one of nine trades including auto mechanics, construction trades, and culinary arts. In addition, the program provides a range of other services including counseling, health care, transitional living assistance, and job search skills development.

Youth Service and Conservation Corps Programs Resemble Job Corps

We found that state and local youth corps programs most closely resembled Job Corps. Both youth corps programs and Job Corps operate in a large number of states, typically serve disadvantaged youth, and provide instruction to enhance basic education skills. On the other hand, few youth corps programs are residential. We found two that contained all four characteristics that describe Job Corps.

Youth corps programs originated in the 1930s when President Roosevelt founded the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide alternative employment for young men during the Great Depression. The program was disbanded in 1942 but was revived with the enactment of legislation in 1970 that created the Youth Conservation Corps—a summer work program. In 1977, the enactment of the Young Adult Conservation Corps provided youths with year-round conservation-related employment and

educational opportunities. Both programs were virtually eliminated through dramatic federal budget reductions in 1981.[8] By that time, however, many states had begun to support these programs directly.

According to the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, 81 year-round state and local youth corps programs operated in 32 states and the District of Columbia in 1994, providing services to about 9,300 full-time participants. (See app. I for a listing of the 81 programs.) Funding for these programs was about $166 million in 1994. Approximately one-fourth of this funding was from federal sources, such as the Job Training Partnership Act, the National and Community Service Act, and the Community Development Block Grant. The remaining funds came from state and local governments and private contributions. Over half of the youth corps programs are operated by independent, nonprofit organizations; the remainder are part of state and local governments.

We found two youth corps programs that most closely resembled the Job Corps program from among the youth programs we identified; that is, they operated residential sites; served disadvantaged youth; offered basic education; and, to an extent, provided vocational training. We visited both programs—California Conservation Corps, which had multiple locations in California, and Seaborne Conservation Corps in Galveston, Texas—to obtain detailed information on how these programs operated compared with Job Corps.

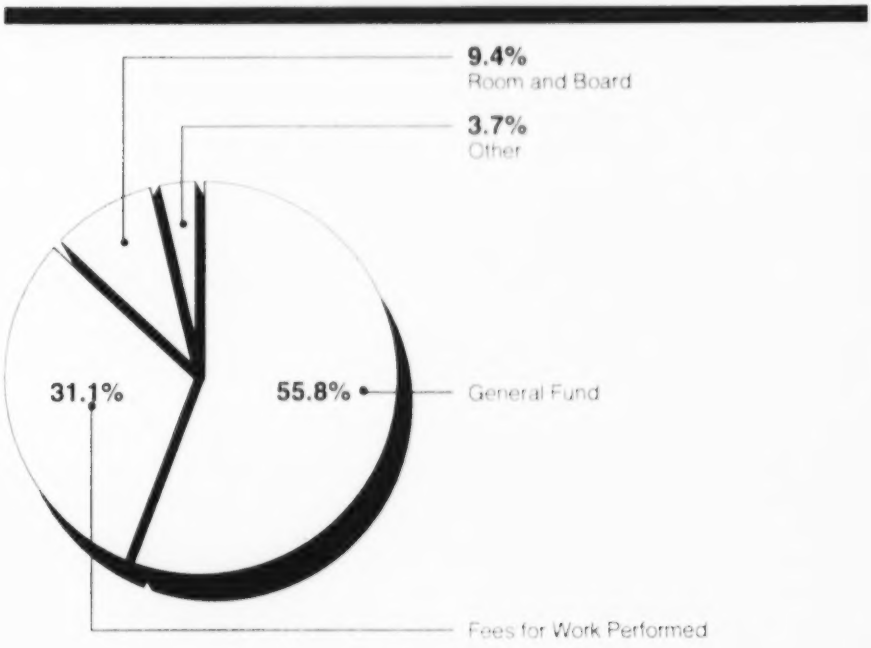
California Conservation Corps

The California Conservation Corps was established in 1976 to assist youth in becoming more employable by providing educational opportunities and meaningful work aimed at protecting and enhancing California's natural and human resources. The program's motto "hard work, low pay, miserable conditions" provides prospective enrollees with a preview of corps life and reflects the nature of the program. For example, each year about 85 youths participate in the Backcountry Trails Project and spend an entire 6-month period in remote areas of California's parks and forests doing trail work. During this time, participants live in spartan tent camps supplied by mule train and helicopter, hike as much as 15 miles each day while clearing trails, and earn minimum wages for their efforts.

[8]At its height during the mid-1970s, the summer Youth Conservation Corps program was funded at $60 million. The program continues today, but at a greatly reduced funding level ($3 million). The year-round Young Adult Conservation Corps program had an annual appropriation of about $230 million during its first 3 years (fiscal years 1978 through 1980), but it was allowed to expire without renewal in the early 1980s.

In 1994, the California Conservation Corps had an annual budget of about $50 million and served about 1,700 youths at its 44 locations statewide, 13 of which were residential. Participants average 7.4 months in the program, and almost two-thirds of participants live in the residential component. As shown in figure 1, the program receives its operating funds from a variety of sources—the largest source being the state's general fund, which contributes about 56 percent of the program's operating budget. About a third of the operating budget comes from revenue generated by program activities, such as reimbursements for public service conservation work and installation of energy-efficient lighting in public buildings. In addition, the California Conservation Corps requires youths participating in the residential component to pay the program for a portion of their room and board. This accounts for approximately 10 percent of the program's operating funds.

Figure 1: 1994 Funding Sources for California Conservation Corps



Several differences exist between the California Conservation Corps and Job Corps. For example, Job Corps seeks to enroll the most severely disadvantaged youths who have multiple barriers to employment, while the California Conservation Corps does not specifically target disadvantaged youth—any California resident not on probation or parole is eligible. However, over half of the participants are high school dropouts. Job Corps participants receive an allowance of $50 to $80 per month and receive free room and board and medical and dental services, whereas California Conservation Corps participants earn a weekly wage but must pay $225 per month for their room and board and another $50 per month if they elect the optional health insurance.

Whereas Job Corps provides training in specific vocational areas and emphasizes job placement in related occupations, the California Conservation Corps seeks to improve the employability of its participants primarily by providing work experience through environmental and public conservation projects. Some of the skills involved in these projects may be transferable to related fields in the labor market when the participants leave the program, but employment in occupations related to the training received is not a primary focus of the California Conservation Corps.

California Conservation Corps participants have been involved in such projects as rebuilding trails at Yosemite National Park, fighting wildfires in Southern California, installing solar panels at a state training facility in Galt, landscaping San Diego's Wild Animal Park, and cleaning up an oil spill near Oxnard. According to program officials, many former participants become employed as rangers with the National Park Service and National Forest Service. Others who were enrolled in the energy conservation program have found jobs in the private sector performing similar work.

We visited two of the residential sites in California—Placer Service District in Auburn and Delta Service District in Stockton. The Placer site is located about 1 hour northeast of Sacramento, in a rural setting. The site is self-contained, having been built in 1952 as a conservation camp for convicts. The facilities consist of two dormitories (housing about 100 youths), an administration building, auto shop, wood shop, energy lab, cafeteria, and recreation hall. Participants are not restricted to facility grounds and can maintain their own vehicles. About half of all Placer participants are in the energy conservation program, while most of the other members participate in resource conservation activities. A few

opportunities also exist for specialist training as cook, auto mechanic, and office clerk.

The Delta site is on the grounds of the Stockton Development Center, a former state mental hospital. The site is located in an urban area and has open access. The main building consists of an administrative area, a large classroom, and several smaller classrooms. The building contains adjacent wings for dormitories housing about 75 participants. Except for administrative and operations staff, no other professional or medical staff are on site. Most of the training opportunities at Delta are in the environmental conservation area, such as fire fighting, flood control, and erosion control.

Seaborne Conservation Corps

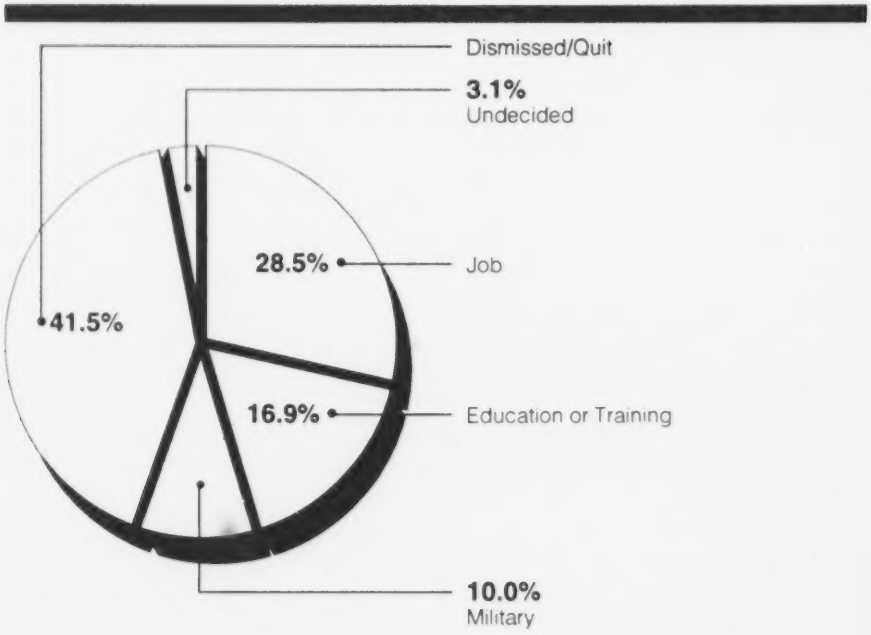
The Seaborne Conservation Corps is a relatively new program, having been established by Texas A&M University at Galveston in September 1994 through a partnership among the university, the Department of the Navy, and the Texas National Guard, with support from the Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps. About two-thirds of its $2 million budget is funded by the Department of Defense (Civil-Military Cooperation) and the remainder is funded by AmeriCorps. Because of funding uncertainties from both the Department of Defense and AmeriCorps, program officials hope to turn to the state of Texas for funding beyond its current class, which is scheduled to graduate in May 1996.

Seaborne is a residential training program targeted to high school dropouts. Its 7-month training program provides basic education, life skills instruction, and vocational skills training. However, differences exist between Seaborne and Job Corps. For example, Seaborne's training program has fixed start and end dates, whereas Job Corps uses an open-entry/open-exit format. In addition, Seaborne participants train in a military-style environment, including undergoing a 4-week boot camp, observing military standards and discipline, and typically training and working 16 hours a day, 6 days a week. Participants are required to perform 900 hours of community service, which program officials believe promotes a strong work ethic while instilling a sense of community pride. All participants live aboard the T/S Texas Clipper, the Texas A&M University training ship supplied by the Maritime Administration for training students in the Texas State Maritime Training Program.

While no income requirement exists, participants must be high school dropouts. Furthermore, the program will not accept delinquent youths or youths who test positive for drugs. The program requires participants to pass a military-type physical examination and prefers to enroll those who can read at or above the grade 7 level, although exceptions may be made. All interested youths are also interviewed by program staff in an attempt to assess their motivation. Seaborne maintains a drug-free policy similar to Job Corps' Zero Tolerance policy. Seaborne tests each participant for drugs at enrollment and then randomly tests a sample of participants (10 to 12 percent) each month. In addition, Seaborne tests any participant for cause or suspicion and may command a 100-percent drug test at any time. For example, all participants in the current class have been tested for drugs following each home leave. If a participant tests positive at any time, he or she is dismissed immediately from the program.

Seaborne's vocational training component is tied directly to the local economy by focusing on the maritime industry. Participants receive maritime training on board the Clipper and perform an internship at the University's Center for Marine Training and Safety. According to the program's Director, the maritime industry has a critical need for entry-level workers. He stated that he could easily find jobs for 300 youths every year. However, not all participants want to work in the maritime industry. In fact, of the 76 graduates from Seaborne's first two classes, only 21 (28 percent) became employed in the maritime industry. As shown in figure 2, about 42 percent of Seaborne's first two classes either dropped out or were dismissed before completing the program. The attrition rate has been reduced with each class—from 48 percent in the first class to about 15 percent in the third (current) class. The program Director attributed the 48-percent dropout rate in the first class to the staff's not fully explaining to prospective participants the program's difficult lifestyle, especially the military structure and discipline, the 16-hour days, and the rigorous physical requirements.

Figure 2: Program Outcomes for Enrollees in Seaborne's First Two Classes in 1994 and 1995



A distinguishing feature of the Seaborne program is the interrelationship of a number of organizations. Seaborne is operated by a local university specializing in ocean sciences. The university provides the ship that participants live and train on, and all program staff are university employees. Program staff have developed links with local maritime companies, who have indicated they are willing to hire all Seaborne graduates interested in maritime careers. The program has also cultivated close relationships with area school districts, which are a major source of prospective recruits. In addition, a private foundation and local bank have cooperated in developing a guaranteed loan program for Seaborne graduates. This low-interest loan program not only provides participants with money to help them transition to the workplace but also gives them a credit history. Seaborne also works closely with the Texas National Guard, using its facilities and medical staff. Program staff use local Navy, Marine, and National Guard recruiters for outreach and placement. Youths who interview with military recruiters but are not eligible for the military are often referred to Seaborne.

Summary

State or locally established youth training programs are offered in most states. While many had characteristics similar to Job Corps, state and local youth corps programs most closely resembled the Job Corps program. We found two such programs—the California Conservation Corps and the Seaborne Conservation Corps in Galveston, Texas—that contained all four features that, taken together, characterize Job Corps. That is, they served disadvantaged youth, provided basic education, offered vocational training, and provided services in a residential setting. However, even these two differed from Job Corps in the way they operated their programs. For example, the California program does not specifically target the disadvantaged, and Seaborne's vocational training is geared toward only one industry.

Agency and Other Comments

In comments on a draft of this report, the Department of Labor generally agreed with the information contained in the report. We have incorporated Labor's comments where appropriate. Labor pointed out that a fifth feature of Job Corps that should not be overlooked is its emphasis on job placement following program separation. We recognize Job Corps' overall goal of placement in a job or additional education and training and have so noted this in our report. Labor also stated that, unlike most other programs, Job Corps focuses on severely disadvantaged youth. Labor believed that this distinction could be made clearer. We made minor adjustments to our draft to clarify this distinction. Labor's comments are printed in appendix II.

We also provided pertinent sections from our draft report to officials from the California Conservation Corps and Seaborne Conservation Corps for their review. They agreed with our characterization of their programs and provided minor technical clarifications. We incorporated their comments where appropriate.

We are sending copies of this report to the Secretary of Labor; the Director, Office of Management and Budget; relevant congressional committees; and other interested parties.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this report, please call me at (202) 512-7014 or Sigurd Nilsen at (202) 512-7003. Major contributors to this report include Thomas Medvetz, Wayne Sylvia, and Marquita Sylvia.

Carlotta C. Joyner

Carlotta C. Joyner
Director, Education and
Employment Issues

Contents

Letter 1

Appendix I State and Local Year-Round Youth Corps Programs 18

Appendix II Comments From the Department of Labor 21

Figures

Figure 1: 1994 Funding Sources for California Conservation Corps 8

Figure 2: Program Outcomes for Enrollees in Seaborne's First Two Classes in 1994 and 1995 12

State and Local Year-Round Youth Corps Programs

State	Name	Year-round slots		FY 1994 budget[a] (thousands)
		Residential	Nonresidential	
Alaska	Southeast Alaska Guidance Association	0	40	$1,390
Arizona	Arizona Conservation Corps	0	60	1,300
	Border Volunteer Corps	0	110	2,484
Arkansas	Delta Service Corps	[b]	[b]	[b]
California	California Conservation Corps	1,063	683	49,000
	Conservation Corps of Long Beach	0	82	1,625
	East Bay Conservation Corps	0	132	5,749
	Fresno Local Conservation Corps	0	50	764
	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	0	180	6,441
	Marin Conservation Corps	0	70	1,800
	Orange County Conservation Corps	0	50	477
	Sacramento Local Conservation Corps	0	130	1,841
	San Francisco Conservation Corps	0	145	4,312
	San Francisco Urban Service Project	0	24	370
	San Jose Conservation Corps	0	95	2,455
	Tulare County Conservation Corps	0	25	341
	Urban Corps of San Diego	0	125	1,455
Colorado	Colorado Youth Corps	0	18	200
	Denver Urban Conservation Corps	0	25	113
District of Columbia	D.C. Service Corps	0	100	1,222
Florida	Eckerd Conservation & Service Corps[c]	40	50	1,576
	Greater Miami Service Corps	0	200	2,300
	Orlando Urban Service Corps	0	60	850
	Urban Conservation Corps (Palm Beach)	0	120	378
Georgia	Georgia Peach Corps	0	120	2,811
	Greater Atlanta Community Corps	0	10	185
Iowa	Iowa Conservation Corps	0	50	2,290
Kansas	Kickapoo Youth Conservation Corps	0	10	150
	Topeka Youth Corps	0	24	396
Louisiana	New Orleans Youth Action Corps	0	70	1,389
Maine	Maine Conservation Corps	0	21	450
	Portland Youth for Public Safety	0	15	351
Maryland	Baltimore Civic Works	0	48	838
	Community Year	0	26	429
	Maryland Conservation Corps	10	50	697
	Montgomery County Conservation Corps	0	40	526

(continued)

State	Name	Year-round slots		FY 1994 budget[a] (thousands)
		Residential	Nonresidential	
Massachusetts	Berkshire Conservation Team	0	11	195
	City C.O.R.E.	0	30	355
	City Pride, Brockton's Urban Youth Service Corps	0	22	400
	City Year, Inc.[d]	0	363	9,012[e]
Michigan	Flint Youth Service Corps	0	33	294
	Grand Rapids Service Corps	0	33	516
	Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps	0	75	1,200
Minnesota	Minnesota Conservation Corps	0	110	2,619
Mississippi	Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps	0	38	895
Missouri	Kansas City Area Youth Corps	0	50	460
	Missouri Youth Service and Conservation Corps	0	116	500
Montana	Montana Conservation Corps	0	24	1,273
Nevada	Nevada Business Services Youth Corps	0	180	700
New Jersey	New Jersey Youth Corps	0	1,400	5,671
New Mexico	Southern Rocky Mountain Service Corps	0	8	47
New York	Albany Service Corps	0	58	651
	Bronx Youth Conservation Corps	0	30	670
	Cayuga County Conservation Corps	0	8	113
	City Volunteer Corps, Inc.	0	483	6,760
	West Seneca Service Action Corps	0	20	180
	Year-Round Syracuse	0	32	750
	Youth Energy Corps	0	32	900
	Youth Resource Development Corporation	0	101	877
North Carolina	Durham Service Corps	0	35	599
	Winston-Salem Service Corps	0	20	275
Ohio	Ohio Civilian Conservation Corps	80	120	5,691
Oregon	Lane-Metro Youth Corps	0	109	685
	Northwest Service Academy	30	60	2,675
	Northwest Youth Corps	76	10	1,680
	Oregon Youth Conservation Corps	0	150	800
Pennsylvania	Lehigh Valley Youth Service Corps	0	27	323
	Pennsylvania Conservation Corps	0	400	7,278
	Step, Inc. Youth Corps	0	24	281
Texas	Dallas Youth Services Corps	0	30	883
	Seaborne Conservation Corps	100	0	2,000
	Serve Houston Youth Corps	0	60	1,250

(continued)

State	Name	Year-round slots		FY 1994 budget[a] (thousands)
		Residential	Nonresidential	
Utah	Youth Force: The Salt Lake County Service and Conservation Corps	0	40	200
Virginia	Opportunity Knocks	0	116	1,141
Washington	Seattle Conservation Corps	0	55	2,400
	Washington Conservation Corps	0	70	1,434
	Washington Service Corps	0	280	3,215
West Virginia	West Virginia Citizens' Conservation Corps	0	64	1,200
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Community Service Corps	0	85	1,648
	Wisconsin Conservation Corps	0	361	5,607
	Wisconsin Service Corps	0	35	322

[a]Budgets include funds for part-time and summer participants, where appropriate.

[b]Information not available.

[c]Program has an additional site in North Carolina.

[d]Program has additional sites in California, Illinois, Ohio, Rhode Island, and South Carolina.

[e]Budget amounts are for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. The other programs began operation after fiscal year 1994.

Comments From the Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210

MAR 4 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: CARLOTTA C. JOYNER
Director of Education and Employment Issues
General Accounting Office

FROM: TIMOTHY BARNICLE TB
Assistant Secretary for Employment
and Training

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DRAFT GAO REPORT "JOB CORPS:
Comparison of Federal Programs to State
Youth Training Initiatives"

This is in response to your request for comments on your report regarding Job Corps as compared to existing state programs with similar characteristics. The report in general is straight forward and our comments are few. The following are offered for your consideration.

1. On page 2 first paragraph you state that "previous work raised questions about Job Corps effectiveness". As we understand it the purpose of this report is to identify state programs that have similarities to the Job Corps, not a comparison of performance. It does not appear necessary or appropriate to include this statement.

2. The four features identified as characteristics of the Job Corps program for purposes of comparison are accurate. However Job Corps has a fifth feature that should not be overlooked. Job placement assistance directly after program separation is provided to all students. In addition structured training such as social skills, cultural awareness and work place preparedness are basic to the Job Corps program.

3. The two state programs identified as most similar to the Job Corps appear to have other major differences. Each offer a limited variety of training opportunities... one exclusively maritime, the other primarily conservation projects, while the Job Corps offers more than 100 career opportunities. Additionally, the Job Corps has developed a performance measurement system that produces a variety of outcome measures such as GED attainment, vocational training achievements and placement rates.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

4. The Job Corps is dedicated exclusively to serving the "severely disadvantaged", while the two programs identified as most similar to Job Corps have quite different target groups. Enrolling those that can read above a seventh grade level and requiring compensation for a portion of the training cost are not features typically found in programs targeting those with the greatest need.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your draft report and hope that our comments will be helpful.

Ordering Information

The first copy of each GAO report and testimony is free. Additional copies are $2 each. Orders should be sent to the following address, accompanied by a check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents, when necessary. VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted, also. Orders for 100 or more copies to be mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent.

Orders by mail:

U.S. General Accounting Office
P.O. Box 6015
Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015

or visit:

Room 1100
700 4th St. NW (corner of 4th and G Sts. NW)
U.S. General Accounting Office
Washington, DC

Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 512-6000 or by using fax number (301) 258-4066, or TDD (301) 413-0006.

Each day, GAO issues a list of newly available reports and testimony. To receive facsimile copies of the daily list or any list from the past 30 days, please call (202) 512-6000 using a touchtone phone. A recorded menu will provide information on how to obtain these lists.

For information on how to access GAO reports on the INTERNET, send an e mail message with "info" in the body to:

info@www.gao.gov

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001

Bulk Rate
Postage & Fees Paid
GAO
Permit No. G100

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use $300

Address Correction Requested

BEST COPY AVAILABLE